

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 2, and 4-12 are pending. The Examiner has indicated that the application is in condition for allowance, except for formal matters. Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's statement that the claims are allowable. The formal matters are addressed below, in the order set forth by the Examiner.

Oath/Declaration

The Examiner has indicated that the previously filed Supplemental and Second Supplemental Declarations lacked the required signatures. A Supplemental Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.175(b)(1) and a Second Supplemental Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.175(b)(1) containing the requisite signatures accompany this response. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Improper Form of Claims

The Examiner has requested that the claims be amended as required under 37 C.F.R. 1.173(b), indicating all changes from the original form by underlining and bracketing. Claims 1 and 4 are amended by underlining and bracketing changes as requested. Claim 2 has been amended by underlining and bracketing changes. Claim 3 is listed as canceled, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.173(b). Claims 5-12 are underlined, as was done by the Examiner and pursuant to 37 CFR 1.173(b). Applicants believe that the claims are now in the correct format under 37 C.F.R. 1.173(b) and respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Surrender of the Original Patent

The Examiner has indicated that the original patent must be surrendered. Applicants hereby surrender the original patent as required under 37 C.F.R. 1.178(a). Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/087,882
Amdt. dated August 14, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 17, 2003

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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